THE MARKS OF THE True Church,

THE

Virgin & Spouse of Christ, that brings forth by a Holy Seed the Birth that pleaseth GOD.

And the MARKS of the *False Church*, or Whore, that brings forth by an Evil Seed, the Cursed Birth, that never could please God.

Signified by a *Voice from the Word of Life*, or a Certain Sound of the Trumpet that hath awakened Thousands, that were asleep in the Night of thick Darkness and Apostacy, who are come to the Judgment of the Truth, that redeems out of BABYLON, and brings to SION.

By which all are Summoned that are yet afar off, to appear before, and stand to the Judgment of the Ingrafted Word in their Hearts, that by it they may know, What they are joyned to.

By Morgan Watkins.

What, know ye not that he which is joyned to an Harlot is one Body? for two (saith he) shall be one Flesh: But he that is joyned unto the Lord is one Spirit, 1 Cor. 6. 16, 17.

Printed in the Year 1679.

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The *MARKS* of the *TRUE CHURCH*, the Virgin and Spouse of Christ, that brings forth by a Holy Seed, the Birth that pleaseth God.

I. THey are such, who are turned from Darkness unto Christ the true Light, that shines in their Hearts, who believe and walk in it, and are turned from the Power of Satan unto the Power of God, that they receive (in Christ the Light) to become his Sons, *having Redemption through his Blood, the Forgiveness of Sin*, and Sanctification in and by that Life that is the Light of Men, *and made Partakers of the Inheritance of the Saints in Light.*

II. Such who have received the Word in a Measure, that spake in the Prophets, by which they prophesied, and was their Foundation, which the Apostles were Ministers and Preachers of, and was their Foundation, which they turned the People to, and they that believed, it was their Foundation; and they that believe and have received the Truth now, it is their Foundation and the Rock in all Ages; *For other Foundation can no Man lay then that is laid, which is Jesus Christ*, 1 Cor. 3. 11. God's Foundation that he hath laid for the Salvation of every Man, which is the *Word grafted in them, that is able to save the Souls of all that receive it*, Jam. 1. 21. But they that reject it perish, and are but the Chaff that the Wind blows to and fro.

III. Such who are in the Unity of the Spirit of Truth, and the Righteousness which is of Faith, that saith, *The Word, is*

nigh thee, in thy Mouth and in thy Heart, that is the Word of Faith (that Faith comes by the Hearing of) and the Word which the Apostles preached, *Rom.* 10. 6, 8.

IV. Unfeigned Love to God and to the Brethren; *By this shall all Men know* (saith Christ) *that ye are my Disciples, if ye have Love one to another*, John 13. 35.

V. Such who are born again of *Incorruptible Seed, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever*, 1 Pet. 1. 23. And are renewed in the Spirit of their Minds, being *by one Spirit all baptized into one Body, and have been all made to drink into one Spirit*, by which they are quickned into one Life, which is the Flesh and Blood of Christ, that comes down from Heaven, the Children's Bread (as Christ saith) *He that eateth me, even he shall live by me*, John 6. 57. And this is the Life that brings forth Fruit of Righteousness, and Birth of God that overcomes the World, and is made manifest to that of God in every Man's Conscience.

VI. Such who make a good Confession by giving up themselves to suffer for the Righteousness sake of the Kingdom of God, and do not deny him before Men, by a subjecting to their Wills, against the Requirings of the Spirit of God; but are made willing to drink of the Cup, and be baptized with the Baptism their Lord and Master was baptized with, patiently taking up his Cross, contentedly bearing his Reproach, and continuing faithful to the Death.

VII. Humility and self-Denyal, hating Covetousness, Pride, and the Pomp, vain Glory and Honour of this World, having the Faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, without Respect of Persons; *Not having Mens Persons in Admiration because of Advantage, but doing Good unto all, especially to the Houshould of Faith*; Visiting the Sick and Imprisoned for Righteousness sake, *the Fatherless and Widdows in their Affliction, keeping themselves unspotted from the World*, Jam. 1. 27.

VIII.

VIII. Such who are Witneſſes of the Spirit's Confeſſion; that Chriſt is come in the Fleſh, and hath condemned Sin in it in the Hour of his Judgment, that the Body of Sin might be deſtroyed by him, that is come and received, *To take away the Sin, and bring in the perfect Righteouſneſs*, that being crucified with him, and ſo ſuffering with him in the Fleſh, dying with him (that is, by the Strength of his Power that overcomes Sin and Death) we come to be raiſed up with him (by the Power that raiſed him up) and ſo come to live to God (by him and in him) and no more to the Luſts of the Fleſh, but to the Obedience of the Spirit and Power, that gives us Victory over Death, and raiſeth the Soul to Life, by the quickning Spirit, that gives us a Will, Deſire, Hunger, Power and Strength, to live to the Good Will and Pleaſure of our unutterable good and gracious God, of whoſe Mercy and Goodneſs ſome feel more then Tongue of Man can declare; and God is Witneſs, ſuch would that all Men might feel the ſame; and God is haſtening his Work, that Thouſands of Thouſands may feel it, and ſing of it in the Glory of his Preſence for evermore, *Amen*.

IX. Such who in their Meaſures witneſs the Reign of Sin and Death put down in them, with all its great Power and Authority, by which it reigned from *Adam* until *Moſes*, and doth ſtill in all that have not received the free Gift of Righteouſneſs (in which is God's Power revealed) and ſuch are pleading for the Reign and Law of Sin, and for the Body of Sin to live in them till they dye, becauſe they are under its Reign. But, as I have ſaid, The Members of the True Church witneſs him come, whoſe Right it is to reign in them; who, having received him (the Gift of God) hath and is putting down all Authority, and all Rule that is not of God, nor ought to reign and rule in Man; ſo caſts out the Strong Man, and ſpoils all his Goods: And theſe know him in them [mark that] *greater then he that is in the World*; who hath caſt out the Prince of the World, and reigns over Death and Hell. And theſe are not looking for the Kingdom of Heaven to come with Outward Obſervations, as the Hypocrites did of old, and ſtill do, who look for the Reign of a Perſon without them, and know not

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that Hell and Death reigns in them (which some of late did know to their Sorrow, that others might be warned) who see not him that is invisible (to the Carnal Eye) that is come and coming *in the Ten Thousands of his Saints to judge the World*, and all the fall en ngels.

X. Such who are gathered (by the Spirit of the Lord) out of all Gatherings in the Fall, that stand in the Will and Wisdom of Man; and these *follow Christ, the Shepherd and Bishop of their Souls*, and abide in his Doctrine and Spiritual Worship, and cannot hearken to a Stranger, who is made a Minister or a Bishop in the Will of Man, and not made by the Holy Ghost an Overseer of the Soul, but are climbed up another Way, and not come in through Christ the Door, by the Gift of his Spirit, but in the Wisdom of Man, and of the Birth of the Flesh that persecutes the Sheep for the Fleece, therefore the Sheep cannot hear them; for he that gives the Soul Eternal Life, the Soul ought to hear, and be subject to, and to all that come in his Name (that is, his Power) who feeds the Sheep & Lambs with the Bread of Life, that is Meat indeed and Drink indeed, where the Word of Life ministers through the Vessel, the Sheep that are gathered by the Spirit, do know the Voice of the Spirit, which is the Voice of Christ, that the Stranger knows not; but the Sheep and their Souls are greatly refreshed by that Ministry of Life, and so is the Body of Christ edified; but where the Gift of Life is not received, nothing but Death can preach, and that burdens, and hurts, and defiles the Soul if it be touched or fed upon; therefore in a Figure, he that touched the Dead was to be unclean by the *Jews* Law; so by the Law of the Spirit of Life, dead Works, that are Works of Darkness, the Living are to have no Fellowship with, but rather reprove them: So this is the Infallible Truth, that the Children of Truth and Sheep of Christ, will hear and obey none but the Voice of the Spirit of Christ, the Truth, the Light and the Life, which every Member of his Body, hath a Measure of in himself, which is the Anointing that leads, guides, and teacheth all his to profit; in the Movings and Requirings of which, all may prophesie one by one, that all may be edified, and the whole Body built up together

gether in Love, a Habitation for the Lord to dwell in, to walk in, work in, and speak in; and these have received Eternal Life (dwelling in it) shall never perish.

XI. Such who have put off the Old Man with his vain Conversation, and have (in their Measure) *Crucified the Flesh with its Affections and Lusts, who walk not after the Flesh, but after the Spirit*, which is become their Leader (as ever it was their Fathers Children) in which they find Power to do the Will of God in Earth, as in Heaven; *Being created again after the New Man in Righteousness and True Holiness*, and being become New Creatures, are in Covenant with God; Old Things are past and passing away, and becoming and become New; a clean Heart and a right Spirit possesseth the Body, which *loves the Lord wholly, and his Neighbour and Brother as himself*; true Judgment and Justice sits in his Gate, and Goodness, Mercy, and Love within his House; his *Law is come forth of* Sion, *and the Word of his God from* Jerusalem; in the Doctrine of which he abides, and Statutes and Ordinances keeps, who swears not at all, nor lyes; for that is against the Truth, and under Condemnation; who is come to the End of Wars and Fightings, and *doth to all as he would be done unto*, that ends Swearing, Lying, Fighting and Lusting after Evil Things, loves Enemies, serves Friends, respects not Persons, but gives to all their Due, *To Cæsar the Things that are his, and to God the things that are his*; labours in Love for the Good of all, and doth Good to all; denyes to hold up the Types and Shadows under the changeable Priesthood (which are fulfilled in the unchangeable) that pointed at Christ and his good Things; who ends the Old Things, the Old Priesthood, and the Law that upheld it; and Christ, the Everlasting Priest, being come, the Substance of them all, cannot deny him before Men, by holding up the Old Things that he hath abolished by his Coming, which, if now upheld, were to deny Christ come in the Flesh, *the High-Priest of our Profession*, Heb. 3. 1. Now if we profess him to be our High Priest, and hold up another Priesthood, by paying of Tythes, and other Things abrogated and denyed by the Holy Brethren of the Heavenly Calling in the Apostles

postles Dayes: I say then, though we do profess him in Words to be come, yet we should deny him in Works, and so do all that hold up the Ceremonies now the Substance is come, who is *a merciful and faithful High Priest in Things appertaining to God, to make Reconciliation for the Sins of the People*, Heb. 2. 17. And those that hold up or establish another Righteousness, fall short of the Righteousness of Christ; *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the Heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our Profession*, Heb. 4. 14. Which Profession stands in Christ, the better Hope, by the which we draw nigh to God, whose Kingdom is not of this World, therefore saith the King, Put up the Sword, and know that Nature that could kill with the Sword Outward, to be slain with the Sword Inward; for saith Christ, *My Kingdom is not of this World, if my Kingdom were of this World, then would my Servants fight*, John 18. 36. Then all you that fight, consider whose Servants you are, seeing Christ's Servants cannot; so all these Things forbidden, are not to be used by the Children of God's Kingdom, and Inheritors of the New Covenant, in which the New Man enjoyes all the Promises of God, that are Yea and Amen to him forever.

XII. As to the Ministry, they are such that the Lord of the Harvest fitteth by his Spirit, and sends into the Harvest, being *called and chosen*, to be faithful Labourers in God's Harvest, and are content with his Wages (and refuse Anti christ's) having freely received, do freely give, according to their Master's Command, who watch for the Souls Good (and not for the Fleece) having Food and Raiment are contented, and are to be ready to do the Masters Will in all Things, and go whither the Spirit requires them, and to preach the Word of Truth he gives them, not consulting with Flesh and Blood, but with Christ revealed in them, who teacheth them to profit the People, and to divide the Word aright, with Boldness, not fearing Man, nor the Power of Darkness, but to shew the People their Sin, that they that are yet in it, may come to repent, and amend their Lives, by turning from Darkness to the Light, and from the Power of Satan unto God, by receiving the Truth, in which

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is found Power to do it, and then they do the Things they ought ought to do, and leave undone the Things they ought not to do, and so calling upon the Name of the Lord (whom they serve and obey) he answereth them, and gives them more Grace, more Strength, more Power to rule over much, because they are faithful in a little; and this is the profiting by the Gift, *the Manifestation of the Spirit, that is given to every Man to profit withal*; without which there is no profiting nor pleasing God: And it is Ministry that comes in the Name of the Lord, but few will hear, because he comes with the Sword of the Spirit to slay that Life that lives in the fleshly Lusts, that wars against the Soul; but they that do hear him that comes in the Name of the Lord, they do hear the Lord, who saith, *Hear, and your Souls shall live*; that is, who do obey the Voice of the Lord, they receive Power to become the Sons of God; but he that is not sent of God, may have the Words, but not having received the Word, hath but his Dream and the Words to tell, who comes in his own Name, that is, his own Power and Wisdom; and the People being in the same, hear him, and receive his Doctrine, because he spares them Life of Pleasure in the Flesh, and makes them believe they shall receive a Life of Glory after Death (and that is his Dream he tells for Money) and so deceives the Soul, and keeps it in Death, serving the Lust, and so the Sin, yet perswading themselves, by the Help of the Hireling, that they serve the Lord; *But no Man* (saith Christ) *can serve two Masters*, especially whose Wayes are so contrary one to the other; and so being taught to confess him in Words, but deny him in Deeds, drawing nigh with their Mouthes, but the Heart is after other Lovers, *these having at most but a Form of Godliness, but denying the Power thereof*; These the Children of Truth deny and turn from, therefore are hated and persecuted by them, whose false Religion they deny, who themselves shew it to be false by their persecuting Spirit, that is of *Cain*; for *Cain*'s Spirit can bring forth no other but *Cain*'s Religion; that is a Worship and Sacrifice that is out of the Truth, that can never please God, nor ever will, but it ever pleased most Men, and so it doth now; but we can say, *The Lord forgive them.*

them, they know not what they do; and so we must drink of our Master's Cup, and be baptized with his Sufferings, and so suffering with him, shall reign with him. World without End, *Amen.*

The *MARKS* of the *FALSE CHURCH*, or Whore, that brings forth by an Evil Seed, the cursed Birth, that never could please God.

I. SHE is made up of such Members who walk in Darkness, and love Darkness rather then Light, because their Deeds are Evil; *For every one that doth Evil, hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light*, Joh. 3. 20. Therefore it is clear, they that walk in Darkness, are Evil-doers, and Evil-doers are the Members of the false Church or Whore: *For if any that walk in Darkness say they* (are Members of the Church of Christ, and) *have not Fellowship with him, they lye, and do not the Truth*, 1 John 1. 6. And so all that cannot witness in Measure Darkness to be past, are still in it, and Children of it.

II. Such who have not received the Word grafted in them, yet are professing the Words, but will not come to the Word of Eternal Life, that gave forth the Words; and being astray from that, *Err, not knowing the Scripture nor the Power of God*, being out of the Faith of God's Elect that overcomes the World, which Christ (the Word) is the Author and Finisher of, and is *a Mystery held in a pure Conscience*; and whosoever hath not this Faith, the Gates of Hell will prevail against him; and his House not being built upon this Rock (Christ the Word of Life)

Life) in the Day of Tryal will be overturned, and great will be the Fall thereof; but the Foundation of God (for Salvation) ſtandeth ſure, that is the Ingrafted Word, that is able to ſave the Soul; that dwelt richly in the Children of God (in all Ages, and alſo in this Age) who were the Houſhould of Faith, Members of the Church in God.

III. To be of a Faith or Belief that is not in the Unity of the Spirit of Life, but of that which Man is Author and Finiſher of; which he hath made and formed in the Houſe of his Imaginary of the Words and Confeſſions of the Saints in Light, and Children of God, that were in the Faith, of that they confeſſed and witneſſed; and ſo in the Myſtery, that they which have only the Words of the Hiſtory cannot ſee, nor doth that reveal it to them.

IV. Profeſſing Obedience to God and Chriſt in Words, but living in the Diſobedience of his Spirit, and ſo in Works deny him, doing the Things they ought not to do, and leaving the Things undone that they ought to do; theſe love not our Lord Jeſus Chriſt, but are in the World's Love, which is ſelfiſh and Enmity to God, from whence proceed the Luſts that war in the Members, the Fruits of the Fleſh, and being in the Fleſh, cannot pleaſe God.

V. Are ſuch, whoſe Head is a viſible Man without them, who takes in and puts out in his own Will and Pleaſure; theſe chuſe rather to obey Man then God, and cannot ſuffer for Righteouſneſs ſake, becauſe their Head is not Chriſt, the Righteouſneſs of God.

VI. Such in whom the Unregenerate Nature bears Rule, and the Seed of the Serpent is Head, and the Government of Chriſt is not ſet up within; but Death through the Luſts reigns, and captivates the Soul under it, that it lives not to God, nor brings forth Fruit of Righteouſneſs, but is the Tree that curſe-

breth the Ground, that will be hewn down, and cast into the Fire.

VII. Are such, whose Weapons of their Warfare are not Spiritual, but Carnal; therefore the strong Holds of Satan are standing in them, who are Aliens and Strangers from the New Covenant, in which is no Fighter, Killer, Murtherer nor Envious Wicked Person, but the New Creation is witnessed, in which dwelleth Righteousness, the Sword turned into a Plowshare, and the Spear into a pruning Hook, where War is learn'd no more.

VIII. Such who despise and neglect the Gift of God, the Light that shines in their Hearts, *the Manifestation of the Spirit that is given to every Man to profit withal*, without which none can please God, nor worship him, as I have said, but are unprofitable Servants, out of the Way of God, in their own Way, the Way of Sinners, out of the Counsel of God's Spirit, in the Counsel of the Ungodly Spirit, out of the Way of Light Life, in the Way of Death and Darkness, dead to God, but alive to the World, and in the Wickedness thereof.

IX. Such who are not turned to the Spirit of Truth, in which God is worshipped, cannot worship him; but (as Christ said), *Ye worship ye know not what*; such Worshippers are all that are astray from the Spirit of Truth, who are all false, from the rising of the Sun to the going down of the same; for being out of the Spirit, out of the Truth, for the Spirit is Truth.

X. Such whose Principle and Belief is, *That the Ministerial Offices in the Church of Christ, are intailed to a Succession of Persons, chosen in the Will of Man*, as if Man were to send forth Labourers into the Lord's Vineyard, and the Lord engaged to accept their Choice; of such saith the Lord, *I have not sent these Prophets, yet they ran*, Jer. 23, 21. It is the Lord of the Harvest (as I have said) that is to send forth Labourers into his Harvest, and Man to accept the Lord's Choice, because they come

come in his Name; and the Apostles prayed, and said, *Thou Lord which knowest the Hearts of all Men, shew whether of these two thou hast chosen:* So the Chosen of God will receive none but the Lord's Choice.

XI. Such who have a Form of Godliness, but denying the Power thereof, ever learning (of the Hireling, that will ever be paid for Teaching) but never able to bring them to the Knowledge of the Truth, because he himself is astray from that which gives the Infallible Knowledge of it.

XII. Such who persecute and destroy Mens Lives for their Religion; thus did *Cain, who was of that Wicked One,* and all that do so, are of him still; for he that doth not Righteousness but hateth his Brother, is manifest to be a Child of the Devil, *1 John* 3. 10. And it was ever from the Beginning, the Unrighteous persecuted the Righteous; and to be persecuted for Righteousness sake, was ever an Infallible Mark of God's Children; and to persecute for Righteousness sake was ever an Infallible Mark of the Children of the Wicked One: Let none mistake me, I do not say, that all that are persecuted, are the Children of God; for Men have suffered, and may be persecuted, and not for the Righteousness sake of God's Kingdom, but for their own Righteousness sake, who in their blind Zeal and Self-Will, are labouring to set up their Idol, or false Way, in Opposition to others; and others in the same opposing them; and here is one in the Beastly Nature and Will, pushing at another in the same; and they that can get most Power and Strength in the Earth, they tear and devour the others: *And if a Man give his Body to be burnt, and all his Goods to the Poor,* and yet may not be accepted of God; for the Life of all true Religion is Love (*for God is Love*) and where that is wanting, *Though a Man may speak with the Tongue of Men and Angels, 'tis all but as sounding Brass or a tinckling Cymbal*; for indeed, pure Religion, springs from the Nature, Vertue and Operation of the pure Spirit of God, brought forth in that Man that hath received it, and denyes his own Will, that the Will of the Divine Nature may be done, which is come, *to be done in Earth, as it*

is in Heaven; and that is the Kingdom that all Men are requi-red to seek, which whosoever receives not as a little Child, can by no Means enter into it: And blessed are all those that having received it, do suffer for its Righteousness sake: And it was ever, and still is, the greatest Blindness and Ignorance among the Sons of Men, to believe or think, that pure Religion is to be forced into by Persecution; for this I declare, They that are of that Judgment, never knew what pure Religion was; but those that will have People to come to pure Religion, must let the Light and Glory of their Religion shine forth before Men, that God's Works in them may be seen to others, that is, to do Good before all, and to all, even as the Son of God did upon Earth in his own Body, and now doth the same by his Spirit, in the Bodies of those that receive him: *He that saith, he abideth in him, ought himself also to walk, even as he walked*, 1 Joh. 2. 6. For all such that think they ought to compel People to their Religion, because they think it is true, must also judge that their Spirit is Infallible, for if it may fail, then it ought not to be a Rule to the Souls of others, nor a Judge of another Man's Faith or Religion, nor of the Things of God; but the Truth is, where any Force or Compulsion is put upon the Consciences of Men, that is an Infallible Sign of a Fallible and *Anti-christian* Spirit; for the Infallible Spirit of God in the Holy Men, left no such Rule nor Example, but commanded the contrary, saying, *Let every Man be fully perswaded* (or fully assured) *in his own Mind*, Rom. 14. 5. Again saith, *So then every one of us shall give an Account of himself to God*, Ver. 12. For in this Case, saith *Paul, Hast thou Faith? have it to thy self.* Then what hath any Man to do, to Lord it over another Man's Faith; seeing he that doubteth is damned (that is, condemned in himself) because not done in Faith, it is Sin: And now you blind Hypocrites, that would compel all to fall down to your Idol or Image of Heavenly Things; can you give Men Faith to believe your Image hath Life, if not, do not you compel Men to sin against their Consciences, seeing *what is not of Faith is Sin*, Rom. 14. 23. And the Devil is the Author of all Sin; and all Persecutors for Righteousness sake, are his Subjects, in whom the Man of Sin is unrevealed, *who opposeth and exalteth himself above*

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all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he as God (mark that's he that would rule over Men's Consciences) *sitteth in the Temple of God, shewing himself that he is God* (that is, by taking that Power to himself that God never gave to any Man, that is, to force or compel People to any Worship that is not of Faith, that is Sin; and God that made Heaven and Earth is not the Author of Sin; but it is the Man of Sin, whom the Lord of Life is *Consuming with the Spirit of his Mouth, and destroying with the Brightness of his Coming*, 2 Thes. 2. 3, 8.

Objection, But some may say, *Did not Christ in the Parable say, Compel them to come in.*

Answer, Blessed be the Lord, many do witness that Compulsion (which is not Outward Force) that are come into his House, and that is by the Power of his Love (wherein he invites the Poor, who receive the Gospel) that hath constrained us to deny our selves, and take up his Daily Cross, and follow him; for the Truth is to be received in the Love of it, and then it overcomes the Enmity of the Fleshly Will, and covers with the Spirit and Life, the Wedding-Garment, that the Heavenly Guests at God's Feast have put on, that no Persecutor ever knew on himself nor can he put it upon another: So they that compel, and they that are thus compelled, are both without a Wedding-Garment, and not meet for the Marriage Feast: And again, the false Church that persecutes, is gone from the sound Doctrine of the Apostles, and cannot endure it: Now the Spirit of Truth, that ministred in the Apostles, hath opened the Mouthes of many to minister, as they have freely received the Gift and sound Doctrine of Truth; and the Teachers that were heaped up by them (that were gone from the Word) after their own Lusts, cannot endure the Doctrine o fthe Light that manifests their Deeds of Darkness, and that which the Apostles turned the People to, the Teachers heaped up in Mens Wills, turn the People from; and so turn Peoples Ears from the Truth, to give Ear unto Fables, the Imaginations of the Heart, that are gone after the Lusts; and this *Paul* did propheste should come to pass (as hath been, and is fulfilled) saying, *For the Time will come, when they will not endure sound Doctrine, but after their own Lusts*

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shall they heap to themselves Teachers, having Itching Ears, and they shall turn away their Ears from the Truth, and shall be turned to Fables, 2 Tim. 4 3, 4. Here was an Apostacy prophesied of, that in the Light is seen to be fulfilled in its Time.

And now by the Brightness of the Rising of the Son of Righteousness, that is the Day spring from on high, that hath visited us, and hath given Light to us that sate in Darkness, and in the Shadow of Death, and hath guided our Feet into the Way of Peace; and the Light, sown for the Righteous, Thousands witness, Glory be to God on high for evermore: And the Unrighteous Works of Darkness are denyed and reproved, which the Children of Light can have no Fellowship with, but are come out from them, in Obedience to the Heavenly Vision the Voice from Heaven, that is the Trumpet that hath awakened Thousands, which saith, *Come out of her my People, come out of her, and partake not of her Sin, lest ye partake of her Plagues*: And now the Lord hath according to his Promise, in the latter Dayes, brought us a Way we did not know (out of her) and led us in Pathes we had not walked in; and this we can say that walk in the Light, if it were the last Words that we should speak upon the Earth, that the Way we are brought to walk in (and in which the Faithful do walk) is the Way that the God of Heaven hath brought us into; let all the Earth speak what they will against it, God, that lives forever, will make it prosper to the Ends of the Earth, and the saved in this Nation, shall and do walk in it, and so shall *the saved in all Nations*, that is, in Christ the Light of the *New Jerusalem*, as it is written; *And the Lord God and the Lamb is the Light thereof*: And all the rotten-Principle'd Men in all Nations shall not be able to stand before, nor abide the sound Doctrine of the Word of Life, *that is quick and powerful, and a Discerner of the Thoughts and Intents of the Heart*, except they come to the Hour of his Judgment, and be judged as Men in the Flesh, that they may be quickned by the second *Adam*, and live to God in the Spirit: And now being led out from among them (that are in the Filthiness of the Flesh) by the Spirit of the Lord, and touching no unclean Thing, the Lord hath received us, and is a blessed Father unto

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his Sons and Daughters, that he hath begotten unto himself, by an Immortal Seed, the Word of Life, that liveth and abideth forever.

And now those pretended Fathers in God, who are called *Lords Spiritual*, which Title the Bishops made by the Holy Ghost, Overseers of the Flock of God, never received, nor owned, nor ever will; and had you been our Fathers indeed, who had begotten us in God, we should have been your most dear and dutiful Children, in all the Commands of Christ through you; but you know by whom you were made, but not by whom we are begotten; for if you did, we believe you would not labour to destroy us, as some of you have done, and still do (but for such, we desire that the Lord would forgive you, and shew you what you do) but not to convince us by sound Doctrine, but by the Instruments of foolish Shepherds do you war against us, such as they use whom you your selves account *Anti-christian*, as well as we; for such that think the Way to save Souls, is to afflict, punish and kill the Body, have not received the Truth, as it is in Jesus, nor the sound Wisdom from above, *Which is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easie to be entreated, full of Mercy and good Fruits; for the Fruit of Righteousness is sown in Peace* mark that but the Fruit of Unrighteousness is sown in Fightings, Beatings, Stockings, Stonings, Banishings, Imprisonings, Finings, Robbing and Spoiling of Goods, destroying of Families, by making many Widdows and Fatherless-Children: Is this the Way to bring People to the Kingdom of God? then the Apostles were much mistaken; for they never made Use of this Way, but the contrary; for these Things were used against them by those that knew not God; but those that have received the Spirit of Christ (are Christ's) and know the Apostles were not mistaken; but it is you that are mistaken, in suffering the Spirit of the World to bear Rule in you, and that take to it the Honours and Preferments of the World, that are but Temporal. and so in the World are Lords many, but in the Church of Christ one God and one Lord, the great Shepherd and Bishop of his Soul, who gives many Bishops or Overseers, but no Lords, as

the Apostle saith, *But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all Things, and we by him*, 1 Cor. 8. 6. And those who are by him now gathered out of the World (that lyeth in Wickedness) and have received the Spirit of Truth, cannot but stand Witnesses against those that are of the World, who receive and give Honour one to another, and would be accounted seat of God, to rule in *his House, which is the Church of the Living God*, 1 Tim. 3. 15. But such manifest themselves by taking the World that lyeth in Wickedness, to be the Church, the House of God, and so make all the Nation to be of their Church, except such they have cast out, which for the most Part are such that are gathered of Christ out of the World; So that all the Thieves, Murderers, Whoremongers, Adulterers, Whores, Drunkards, Swearers, Cursers, Lyars, and all People of all Sorts, that will hear, and pay you, both *Papists*, and all Sects and Sorts, you account are of your Church, except such you cast out, as I have said, so that *Babylon*, and *Egypt*, and *Sodom* and all is here by you taken to be the Church of Christ, the House of God; what a House have you provided for the living God to dwell in the midst of? What a Church is here? Is this *the Pillar and Ground of the Truth*? Do these hold the Mystery of Faith in a pure Conscience? Or rather, doth not the Mystery of Iniquity hold them in a defiled One? But if they will hear the Priest, and pay him (as I have said) let them believe or hold what they will, all is received of the Church: Oh! what a foul House is here for those you would force to dwell in, who are called out to touch no Unclean Thing? What a Body have you prepared for that glorious Head to be joyned to, that is separate from Sinners, and made higher then the Heavens? Was not here sufficient Cause for the People spiritually gathered to come out from among you? Do you put no Difference between the Precious and the Vile? Yes, you do; for the Precious you curse out, and deliver to Satan, though some of them were never of you, nor owned you.

And

And you have heaped up such a Company of your Spiritual Children to reform your Church, who are so Zealous for God *Mammon*, that for Non-Payment of a Groat or two, they cast out a Man, and deliver him to Satan; so it seems, a Groat or two by them is more prized, then the Soul of a Man; yea, or his Body, Life and Family, that they can deliver them to Prisons, to the ruining of Families; but as to their delivering to Satan, it is past their Spiritual Skill in Reality, who are erred and strayed from the Power of God, which is the Way of God, and that Power gives them Victory over Satan, that are turned to it, and so their Satan is some Gaoler, a Member of their own Body; it is like they may be conscious to themselves that they have not spiritual Power to bind and loose the Souls of Men; and therefore they will be sure to bind the Body in some nasty Hole or Prison; but if Money come, then Soul and Body and all shall be loosed and blest into their Church again, though he be of the worser Sort of Men.

These Practices savour more of a Synagogue of Satan, then a Church of God; for the Church of God, that abides in the Doctrine of Christ, and is a sweet Savour to God and all Just Men that live by Faith; but these are a Stink in his Nostrils, and an Ill Savour to all sober-minded Men, and one of the greatest Grievances in the Nation, that is to say, the *Spiritual Courts*, so called, that are yet of the World, and cannot overcome the Flesh nor the Devil; these pretend to cast People out of that which they were never in themselves, to wit, the Church of God: And some being cast out of their Church once, and delivered to Satan (as they pretend) which in Truth is but the delivering of the Body to the Envy and Cruelty of that persecuting oppressing Spirit that dwells in their Adversaries) and these that could never come to them to be restored, yet have cast them out the second Time, and some the third, for not coming to their Church, which was contrary to their own Law: Was ever such Non-sensical Work acted by Men pretending to reform the Church? Is not *Hosea*'s Prophecy fulfilled upon them, as it was upon *Israel*, when they went a whoring from their God, and loved a

Reward, *The Dayes of Visitation are come, the Dayes of Recompence are come,* Israel *shall know it, the Prophet is a Fool, the Spiritual Man is mad; for the Multitude of thine Iniquity and the great Hatred,* Hosea 9. 7. What Prophets were they that were Fools in *Hosea*'s Dayes? those that prophecied, and the Lord never sent them, who had not received the Word of the Lord, but told the People their Dream for a Reward, upon every Corn floor; but the true Prophets, that had received the Word, spake it or preached it freely, as the Lord said, *He that hath my Word, let him speak my Word freely, what is the Chaff to the Wheat?* The Word is the Wheat; the Chaff is what he preacheth that hath not received the Word, that is but the Divination of his own Brain; and these were the Fools that had not received the Word of Wisdom *from above, that is first pure, then peaceable*; but the foolish Prophets, that prophesied for a Reward, he that refused to put into their Mouthes, they prepared War against them. Were these foolish and false in the Dayes of the Children of *Israel*, and can those that walk in their Steps be true in this Age? Nay, for the Testimony of the Spirit of God was against such in all Ages, and so it is against them in this Age: Were they false then that preached or prophesied, and had not received the Word? so they are now: Were they false then that prophecied for a Reward in every Corn-floor? and are they not so now, that preach for a Reward in every Corn-field? Was the false Prophet then as *the Snare of a Fowler in all his Wayes, and Hatred against the House of his God*? and is he not so now? All that have escaped the Snare know, the Lord hath delivered them out of the Mouthes of the false Shepherds, according to his Promise, and hath exalted the Mountain of his House above their Mountains, and above all Hills, and thither he hath gathered, and is gathering his People in this Nation, and will gather them in all Nations into this House of the Lord, where there is Bread enough; and the false Prophets, and foolish blind Priests in this Age, are in Hatred against this House of the Lord of Hosts, and against the Gatherings of his People in it, and the Flowings together of the Nations unto it, according to the Word of the

Lord;

Lord; but the Work of the Lord doth proſper, and will proſper, and all Oppoſers of it (except they repent) will periſh; for the falſe Shepherds ſhall howl, and their Paſture ſhall be ſpoiled. For you have deſpiſed and rejected the Counſel of the great Shepherd and Biſhop of the Soul, and are Oppoſers of the Work of his Spirit in his People, who have received the Truth, the Spirit of Chriſt, *And if any Man have not the Spirit of Chriſt, he is none of his*, as the Apoſtle ſaith; and thoſe that walk in the Obedience of the Meaſure of his Spirit, you have hated and perſecuted; and ſome of you being fill'd with Envy againſt them, have turned Informers, like *Judas*, that informed againſt Chriſt for Money; after he had betrayed the Truth in himſelf, the Devil entered, and fitted him with Envy, to come againſt Chriſt and his Diſciples, where they were aſſembled, to betray them into the Hands of their Enemies; and hath not Envy filled ſome of your Hearts, and ſo fitted you to inform againſt the Aſſemblies, gathered in the Name and Spirit of Chriſt, as ſome of you have done, and have ſworn againſt them; and one confeſt before the Magiſtrate, that he did not know that ever he had ſeen ſome of their Faces before, and yet ſome time before had ſworn they were at the Meeting; but all muſt be conſtrued for the Purpoſe, that is to ſpoil the Goods of thoſe that cannot forſake the aſſembling of themſelves together in the *true Worſhip* of God.

And ſome of you have procured Warrants to ſpoil the Goods of your Neighbours, and ſome have ſpoiled them over and over, and proſecuted thoſe that would not ſpoil them: Is this the Way to teach the People to *Love their Neighbours as themſelves, and to do to all People as they would be done unto*? this is the Way indeed to manifeſt what Spirit you are of; and ſo People may read your Father's Name in your Foreheads, whoſe Works do you do, what Spirit leads you, whether the Spirit of *Cain* that wicked One, or the Spirit of *Abel* the Righteous One? by your Fruits you are known: Doth the Work of this Spirit confeſs that Chriſt is come in your Fleſh, that Righteous One, or Anti-chriſt, that Wicked One, whom Chriſt is *Conſuming with the Breath of his Mouth, and the Brightneſs of his coming*? Was it ever known that a Miniſter of Chriſt was an Informer againſt *Chriſtian* Meetings? no, it never was, nor ever will be; for ſuch are

are not in the Doctrine of Christ, but in the Practice of those the Scripture calls *Wolves in Sheeps Cloathing*; but in this Work of Informing, the Wolf only appears, that comes to devour; so that Spirit that preacheth for Hire, is the same that spoils Men's Goods for Hire; and he that takes Wages of Unrighteousness, doth the Work of Unrighteousness; Did not those that devoured Widows Houses, do the Work of Unrighteousness, though for a Pretence made long Prayers? and those were Enemies to Christ then, and can they be Friends now? no, such are an ill Savour to God, and a Stink in his Nostrils; what have such to do to take his Name into their Mouthes, who hate to be reformed by his Spirit, and persecute those that are? How many Souls are you guilty of the Blood of? And how many Bodies have you cast into Prison till Death? How many Widdows and Fatherless Children have you made in this Nation, because they could not put into your Mouthes, knowing what Spirit you were of; and that the Lord never sent you, as by your Fruits you have manifested to the View of the Nation? and Thousands see you, and will buy your Merchandize no more; and if you cannot compel them by your Law, then you make Merchandize and Spoil of their Goods.

But Wo is unto you, that ever you were born, because of the terrible Day that is coming upon you, which you can no wayes escape, but by coming out of her, in whom is found all the Blood of the Saints and Martyrs, and all that have been slain (for the Testimony of Jesus) upon the Earth.

For now the Everlasting Gospel is preaching, that shall be preached to all Nations, Tongues and Languages, for the gathering of the *Gentiles* to their Light, and *Israel* to the Hope of their Glory: *For to him shall the Gathering of the People be, and the* Gentiles *shall walk in thy Light, and Kings in the Brightness of thy Rising; then thou shalt see and shine, thy Heart shall be astonished and enlarged, because the Multitude of the Sea shall be converted unto thee, and the Riches of the* Gentiles *shall come unto thee,* Isa. 60. 3. 5. *For the Lord shall be thy Everlasting Light, and thy God thy Glory,* Ver. 19. *Thy People also shall be all Righteous, they shall possess the Land forever; the Graft of my planting shall be the Work of mine Hands, that I may be glorified; a little One*

shall

shall become a Thousand, and a small One as a strong Nation, I the Lord will hasten it in due Time.

And this is that *Jerusalem* prophesied of, that should be *a Burthensom Stone unto all Nations* (which is become a burthensome Stone in this Nation) *but all that burthen themselves with it shall be broken in Pieces by it*; and how many have been broken in Pieces by it, that opposed it in this Nation? and all that yet shall oppose it in this or any other Nation, shall be broken in Pieces and confounded by it, except they repent and be gathered into it; for God is making his little One to become a Thousand, and his small One a strong Nation; and these are his holy Nation, and peculiar People, and spiritual Priesthood, that are gathered out of the Flesh, where none can please God, into the Spirit of his Son, where all walking do please him; and these cannot please Men; for the Gift that God hath given (that Man is to receive if he please God) the VVisdom of the Flesh did always reject in all Ages, and so it doth in this; and it was a *stumbling Stone and a Rock of Offence* to the VVise and Prudent of this World among the *Jews* in that Age, *disallowed of Men, but chosen of God, elect and precious* to those that believe, both *Jews* and *Gentiles* in all Ages, *a tryed Corner-Stone*, the Power of God to all those that receive it, who through Obedience of it become the Sons and Daughters of God.

And now I warn all in this Nation that profess *Christianity*, to consider your Wayes, whether you are entered in at the straight Gate, and whether you walk in the narrow VVay, that only leads to Life; for out of it there is no Salvation: And God is risen to overturn every false VVay in this the Day of his Power, in which the VVay of the Wicked shall be turned upside down, but the VVay of the Lord shall be exalted, which as the Apostle saith, *Is the New and Living Way*, the New Covenant of Light to the *Gentiles*, that is *Israel*'s Hope of Glory, which is Christ the Spirit of Truth and VVord of Life in Man, that whosoever receives and walks in, is of God, and come out of the VVorld; but he that receives it not, is not past from Darkness, but is under the Power of it, in the VVorld that lyeth in VVickedness, where God is not pleased; but as many as have received the VVord in their Hearts, and in it believe, are grafted by Faith into Christ, the Root, the Vine and Power of Life, the incorrupti-

ble

ble Seed, *the Word of God that liveth and abideth for ever*, and becauſe he liveth, all in him are made alive to God again; and theſe walk in him, that is, his Spirit, that God the Father hath given to lead them into all Truth (and out of him none can pleaſe God, nor walk in his Truth) and theſe be his Diſciples in this Age, that have received him the VVord, and for the Obedience of him the World hates them, as it doth him, and now perſecutes him in his Members, as he ſaid they would, and we witneſs his Word fulfilled in us; but in his Spirit we have Victory over the World and their Spirit, becauſe he that we have received (the Word, the Spirit of Truth) *in us, is greater then he that is in the World*; and that Spirit that is in the World is now making War againſt the Spirit which we have received, and is in us that are not of the World: And here is the Lamb's War againſt the Beaſt and the falſe Prophet: And as ſure as *John* ſaw the Beaſt and the falſe Prophet overcome, taken alive, and caſt into the Lake of Fire, ſo ſure ſhall we overcome in his Spirit, that hath overcome in his own Body the World, the Fleſh and the Devil, and now is revealed in us to overcome for us, in whom we have good Comfort, and in the Faith ſee that Spirit that makes War againſt us (in Prieſts and Profeſſors, and all perſecuting Rulers and Magiſtrates) ſhall be overcome; and all that come not out of that Spirit, but continue in it, in the Hatred and War to the End, will be caſt into the Lake of *Fire*, as *John* ſaw in the Revelation of the Spirit of Truth that cannot lye.

Therefore I warn you all, to hear the Voice of the Spirit of Truth that calls to you from Heaven, to come out of her, in whom all the Blood is found, that is, that Spirit that perſecuted the Church of God in all Ages, the Spirit of the World that rules in the Children of Diſobedience, that is he that is in the World, and the World are in it that is, all that have not received the Spirit of Chriſt, are they that are none of his; but they that have received his Spirit, are they that the World hates, as he ſaid it ſhould be; for as he is not of the World, ſo all in him (that is, his Spirit) are not of the World.

And now let all conſider what Spirit they are joyned to; *For he that is joyned to the Lord are one Spirit; but they that are joyned to the Harlot* (the Falſe Spirit, or Falſe Prophet) *are one Body*, whatever they do profeſs for a Religion it matters not;

for

for Hypocrites in all Ages were such that said, and did not, and so they are now, that call themselves *Christians*, and are not in Christ's Spirit; for as saith the Apostle, *If any Man say he is in him, he ought himself to walk even as he walked*; and he that is not in Christ's Spirit is no *Christian*; but professing Christ's Life, and living after the Flesh, is in Hypocrisie; and the Life of Christ in his People judgeth that, and condemns that Religion, and declares that Life to be *Anti-christian*, and but the Birth of the Flesh, that persecutes him that is born of the Spirit; and though that Birth by its great Profession may have a Name to live, and be persecuted for its Name, yet having not the Nature of Christ to be its Life, cannot hold out to the Death, but must give Way, and flee before their Enemies into Holes and Corners, because they are not come to the Power of God in themselves, that is *he that is greater then he that is in the World*: And therefore all you great Professors that are against the Light of Christ in you, in which *Power is received to become the Sons of God, and overcome the World*, you are overcome by him that is in the World, and he *makes you leave your great licensed Meeting houses to the Bats and the Owls, that love the Light Natural no more then you do the Spiritual*, as of late in many Places you have done; *and so your Gatherings in the Imaginations of your own Brains, come to be scattered according to the Imaginations of your Enemies, who have not therein imagined a vain or ineffectual Thing against you, but they see they have against those that the Lord gathered out of Darkness into his marvelous Light*: But if you were not blind, you might see that *you are not gathered in the Name, that is, the Power of God, the Rock that God built his Church upon in all Ages, that the Gates of Hell might not prevail against them*: Cannot you see what Power it is that scatters you, what Spirit and Power is it that leads the Informers, which for the most Part are the wickedest of Men? *Is it not he that led* Judas *the Informer, whom the Rulers paid, and the Devil set at Work? and you in your* Anti-christian *Prudence flee before*; for *Christian* Prudence leads to do that which is given of Christ to do; *for as it is given to believe, so also to suffer for his sake*, in whom we have believed: *But where the Gift of God is not received, there true Faith is not witnessed, but Flesh and Blood is consulted with, that never led to do the Will of God; but he that suffered himself,*

and in it did the Will of God, is the Leader of all his that suffer for Righteousnes sake; for they that will not suffer with him, cannot reign with him over that Spirit that makes War against him, which is to be conquered by Suffering; for that Spirit that leads to decline a publick Testimony, and to flee from Suffering & Persecution for Righteousnes sake, is one with that Spirit which persecutes; for that Spirit that leads to persecute the Children of Truth, can never lead to suffer for the Truth; for it is out of it: *So that it is clear, that Spirit that leads to run from Persecution, when they have Power, will lead them to persecute, as in* New-England *doth appear, by such who could not suffer for their Religion, but joyned to the Power of Darkness, and persecuted to Death the Children of Light that could, so they have conquered that Spirit, and their Life doth tread that Religion under Foot; for its but* Cain's *Sacrifice, without Faith that worketh by Love, which the Spirit of the Lord loathes, being in that Spirit that slew his Brother, in which they preached, that shall be ashamed of their Gospel, not being the Power of God to Salvation; for if it were, they that hear, and they that preach it would not flee before the Power of Satan; but where he that saves the Soul is not received, he that kills the Body will be feared; and so the Counsel of Christ being rejected, his Commandment comes to be transgressed; and thus the Wind that purifies and winnows the Wheat, blows the Chaff unto the Dunghil: So they that cannot stand in Time of Tryal, declare themselves to be but Chaff, that the Wind blows too and fro, for if the Waity Life dwell not within, such Mens Religion is but a foolish Thing; for he that saith,* Without me you can do nothing, *is he that is come that all might have Life and Power to do the Will of God, and he that hath received him, hath Life and Power to do the Will of God, and so becomes a Child of God; but he that hath him not, hath not Life nor Power to do the Truth, and that Mans Religion is vain: So it is clear, that all those that deny Christ, the Light, to be come in Spirit within, are* Anti-christian, *as well as they that denyed him come in the Flesh, and such are not of God.*

Given forth in the Love of him, who would have all Men to be saved, and to come unto the Knowledge of the Truth.

This 3d of the 2d Month, 1675. M. W.

The

The Prophecy of *John Hus*; Propheſying of the Reformation of the CHURCH.

THE Church (he ſaith) cannot be reduced to her former Dignity and reformed, before all Things firſt be made new, the Truth whereof appeareth by the Temple of Solomon, as well the Clerks and Prieſts, as alſo the People and Laity; or elſe except all ſuch as now be addicted to Avarice, from the leaſt to the moſt, be firſt converted and renewed, as well the People, as the Clerks and Prieſts, Things cannot be reformed. Albeit, as my Mind now giveth me, I believe rather the firſt, that is, that there ſhall riſe a New People, formed after the New Man, which is created after God; of the which People New Clerks and Prieſts ſhall come forth and be taken, who all ſhall hate Covetouſneſs and Glory of this Life, labouring to an Heavenly Converſation; notwithſtanding all theſe Things ſhall be done and wrought in Continuance and Order of Time, diſpenced of God for the ſame Purpoſe; and this God doth, and will do, of his own Goodneſs and Mercy for the Riches of his Patience and Sufferance, giving Time and Space of Repentance to them that have long lain in their Sins, to amend and flee from the Face of the Lord's Fury, until at length all ſhall ſuffer together, and until both the Carnal People, and Prieſts, and Clerks in Proceſs and Order of Time, ſhall fall away, and be conſumed, as is the Cloth conſumed and eaten of the Moth.

THE END.